

SHEPSHED URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1904.

BY

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Shepshed Urban Sanitary District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1904, including averages for the ten preceding years, 1894—1903 inclusive.

The
Population.

At the last census (1901) there were enumerated 5293 persons in your District. My estimate of the population at the middle of the year is 5400, and on this number the statistics for the year are based. There were 1161 inhabited houses at the census, producing an average of 4·4 persons per house.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

During the year 151 births were registered—82 males and 69 females. This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 27 per thousand inhabitants, compared with 30·2 for 1903. The average birth-rate for the preceding ten years has been 30·7.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered as occurring in your District was 74—42 males and 32 females. This gives a death-rate of 13·7, as compared with 13·2 for 1903. The average death-rate for the preceding ten years has been 15·2. There were four deaths of residents registered in public institutions beyond the District, so that the nett deaths belonging to the District numbered 78, and the nett death-rate 14·4, as compared with 13·4 for last year. Two of those deaths occurred in the Loughborough Union Workhouse, and two in the Loughborough Hospital. The death-rate was highest during February, and lowest during November and December.

Inquests.

No inquests were held during the year.

Natural
Increase.

The number of births exceed the number of deaths by 77, as compared with 90 for the preceding three years.

Infant
Mortality.

The infant mortality, calculated on the number of deaths in children under one year of age per thousand registered births, is 125·8, an increase on that for last year, which was 112·5. The average for the preceding ten years has been 141·7. Nineteen deaths of children under one year of age were registered, and of these five were due to premature birth, and six to diarrhoea.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The year 1904 was eventful as far as infectious diseases are concerned. At the beginning of the year we had a serious epidemic of enteric fever; in the spring small-pox made its appearance in the district,—the first time for many years; and later on, in the autumn, we were visited by an extensive epidemic of measles.

Notifications Forty-four cases of infectious diseases were notified, comprising two cases of small-pox, eight of erysipelas, nine of scarlet fever, twenty of enteric fever, and five of chicken-pox.

Zymotic Mortality. The number of deaths attributed to infectious diseases was six,—measles claiming three, scarlet fever one, and enteric fever two. The zymotic mortality is 1·1, as compared with ·02 for the preceding year.

Small-pox. Two cases were notified. The first occurred in the Well-yard, Forest street, the patient being an old man who had been sleeping with a week-end lodger—a small-pox “contact”—from Loughborough, where the disease was then prevalent. The case was at once notified to the County Medical Officer of Health, and was removed the following day to the Leicestershire Small-pox Hospital at Syston. There were nine persons (involving four families) who had been in contact with the case. These were isolated, as far as was possible, for a period of 14 days, and six were vaccinated, the others refusing the offered protection. Of the three “contacts” who declined vaccination, one—a boy, grandchild of the first case—developed the disease twelve days later. This second case was also removed to the Hospital. The “contacts” in the case of adults received compensation from your Council for the loss of employment during the term of isolation. At this time many of the neighbours availed themselves of the offer of vaccination and re-vaccination; and to this, as well as to the isolation and supervision of the “contacts,” and the thorough disinfection of the infected dwellings and clothing, must be attributed the fact that no further cases occurred. These cases of small-pox being somewhat mild in character, I recommended that chicken-pox, cases of which might easily resemble cases of mild small-pox, should be added to the list of infectious diseases which are compulsorily notifiable.

Erysipelas. Eight cases of this disease were notified, all mild in character.

Scarlet Fever Only nine cases occurred during the year, and of these one was imported from Leicester and one from Loughborough. One case ended fatally.

Diphtheria. No cases were notified.

Enteric Fever. Twenty cases of enteric fever were notified. In December, 1903, there were four cases of this disease,—two in Sullington road and two in the Ring fence. One of the latter was removed to Charnwood road prior to notification.

Thus, we started the year 1904 with three infected areas. Another area, viz., Forest street, was subsequently added to the number through a mother who had

been nursing a case in Sullington road taking the disease to her children. The four infected areas, therefore, were :—

- A Sullington road and neighbourhood.
- B Ring fence.
- C Charnwood road, and
- D Forest street.

The cases occurring in area C were traced to the case which was removed from area B, and those in D to one of the cases in A ; and I have no doubt that there was a connection between areas A and B, though I was unable to trace it. I am of the opinion that the disease originated in Sullington road (area A). Including the four cases notified in December, 1903, there were 24 cases in all, and of these 11 (including the first two notified) occurred in Sullington road, and these patients obtained some, if not all, their drinking water from one well. The milk supply was from several different sources, consequently I do not regard milk as being the cause of the epidemic. This particular well was in close proximity to old closets connected with a wet ash-pit, the floor of which was below the ground level. Chemical analysis of this water did not reveal the presence of organic matter, but the report of the bacteriological analysis states that “the degree of general bacterial impurity of this water is very considerable.” In several other cases the sanitary arrangements were far from satisfactory. These defects were remedied. The suspected well was closed. It was subsequently cleaned out, and the brick-work of the top thoroughly repaired. The closets were converted into pail-closets. Wet ash-pits were emptied, disinfected with chloride of lime, filled up to above ground level, and cemented. A nurse was employed to help in the nursing of the cases—a help which was greatly appreciated. Pails, painted red and furnished with spring lids, were provided by this Council to receive the excreta of the patients, which, after being well mixed with chloride of lime, was buried. These pails, however, were delivered too late to have been of much use during the epidemic. Two cases ended fatally.

Chicken-pox. On account of the presence of small-pox, chicken-pox was added to the list of notifiable diseases for six months, beginning March 22nd. Five cases were notified during that time.

Measles. An extensive epidemic of this disease occurred in your District in the autumn. The first cases were seen about the middle of August, and for a month there did not seem to be much increase. Later, however, the disease spread, first amongst children attending the infant department of the British Schools, and subsequently to the mixed department of the same schools and to the other schools. All the schools were closed, some for three and others for four weeks. The Sunday Schools were also closed for the same time. It was most noticeable during this epidemic, that of those children under five years of age suffering from measles, a very large proportion attended Day Schools. The closure of the schools was notified to the Local Government Board. Three deaths were due to measles.

Whooping Cough. Several cases were seen during December.

Disinfection. Disinfectants (including Sanitas and Jeyes' Fluid and carbolic powder) have been freely supplied to houses where infectious diseases occurred. Sulphur

candles were used to disinfect those houses, and formalin to disinfect small-pox infected houses and clothing. All the Day and Sunday Schools were disinfected, the former on two occasions.

OTHER DISEASES.

Epidemic
Influenza.

Many cases were seen during January and February ; also several cases of pneumonia. No deaths were due to either disease.

Phthisis and
other tubercu-
lar diseases.

Seven deaths were due to phthisis. This is an improvement on last year, when ten deaths occurred. Your Council has not yet adopted voluntary notification of this disease.

Only two deaths were caused by other tubercular diseases. This compares very favourably with the three previous years (five in 1903, nine in 1902, and 11 in 1901).

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is supplied by wells. Twenty-three samples of water were analysed, and of these six were found unfit for drinking. An arrangement exists between the Corporation of Loughborough and this Council for a public water supply from the Blackbrook Water-works, when these works are completed.

SEWERAGE.

The man-holes in the streets, and the detritus chamber at the sewage farm, have been emptied regularly during the year. Eighteen new connections have been made with the main sewer, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and he reports that the sewer was quite clear in all cases, excepting in Forest street and Factory street.

At the beginning of the year your Council renewed the lease of the old farm, and made arrangements for an additional four acres, making a total of over 11 acres. A scheme is under consideration for the preparation of this land. It is proposed to divide the whole farm into two equal portions, between which a main carrier (two feet deep) will convey the sewage to distributing channels. These channels are simply cut out with a plough, laying the land off in beds about 12 feet wide. Each bed will have four rows of osiers, planted in straight lines, and at such a width that they will be easily cleaned with a scuffle, which breaks up the soil and permits of efficient aeration. The proposed scheme includes under-draining with 3-inch agricultural drain-pipes, filled in on the top with loose porous material. These run diagonally under the beds, and are discharged into a main effluent drain, which ultimately conveys the effluent to the brook. The land being heavy and close, and there being no under-gravel within reasonable depth, the whole success of this scheme depends on the under-draining. It is advisable to proceed with this work as soon as possible.

SCAVENGING.

This is done by contract, a system which is now working satisfactorily. 360 pails are emptied weekly, an increase of 92 on the number for last year.

House refuse, when collected in boxes, &c., is removed monthly.

NUISANCES.

House to house inspections have been made in certain localities, and many nuisances were discovered and subsequently remedied.

Some foreign meat was examined, and condemned as unfit for consumption. It was buried under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Fish shops, butchers' shops, slaughter houses, and a knacker's yard were inspected, and generally found satisfactory.

PLANS AND BUILDINGS.

Eight plans for new buildings were passed by your Council. These included four for dwelling houses, and one for the New Roman Catholic School.

At the middle of the year there were 1306 houses in your District, and of these 88 were uninhabited, leaving 1218 inhabited as compared with 1161 at the time of the last census.

FACTORIES AND WORK-SHOPS.

The main industries of the District are hosiery and boot and shoe manufacturing. Both are carried on in factories and work-shops.

There are six hosiery and six shoe factories, two of the latter being closed during the year. There are also one brick-works and three joiners' shops, making a total of 14 in operation.

The total number of work-shops is 46, including 19 hosiery, two shoe, one printer's, one needle-maker's, five tailor's, 12 dress-maker's, and six bake-houses. All were inspected and found generally satisfactory. In a few instances notices were sent for the remedy of defects. Special attention was paid to the means of escape in the case of fire, and the Surveyor reports that "there did not appear to be cause to interfere."

Bake-houses. These were found to be in every way kept clean. There are no underground bake-houses.

Home-work. Seaming and mending of hose are the chief forms of home-work. Twenty-four lists of out-workers were received from the owners of factories and work-shops, and two from other authorities (Leicester). Six lists of addresses of out-workers were sent to other local authorities. The lists included 450 out-workers in your District, and six in other districts. A good proportion of these houses were inspected, and care was taken that no such work was done in infected or unwholesome dwellings.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following have been adopted by this Council:—The Burials' Act, the Public Libraries' Act, and Part III. of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890.

**Common
Lodging
Houses.**

None exist in your District.

Dairies, Cow-
sheds, and
Milk-shops'
Order.

This order has not yet been adopted by this Authority.

THE TABLES.

The Official Tables have been filled up as far as they refer to the District.

RESUME.

The death-rate (13·7) compares very favourably with that for the ten preceding years (15·2), and with that for England and Wales (16·2).

The infant mortality (125·8) is greater than that for the last year (112), but is less than the average for the last decade (141·7), and much less than that for England and Wales (146).

The number of infectious diseases notified, and the zymotic death-rate, both show an increase on that of last year.

After a long delay, it is gratifying to report that your Council has taken steps to put the treatment of the District's sewage on a more efficient basis ; and there is every likelihood of the suggested scheme satisfying the requirements of the District for at least some years to come.

I again strongly urge the adoption of voluntary notification of phthisis, and the regulations under the Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk-shops Order.

The general sanitary condition of the District is good.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS BELL.

Shepshed,

28th February, 1905,

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			Number	Rate.*
				Number	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Number	Rate.*			
1894	4416	134	30.3	20	149	80	18.1	...	...	...
1895	4416	159	36.3	24	150	86	19.5	...	...	...
1896	5000	170	34.0	22	129	68	13.6	..	...	...
1897	5000	112	22.4	19	169	80	16.0	...	...	...
1898	5000	162	32.4	16	98	66	13.2	...	...	...
1899	5000	151	30.2	19	125	67	13.4	...	...	...
1900	5000	158	31.6	34	215	96	19.2	...	...	...
1901	5293	163	30.8	24	147	73	13.8	...	...	...
1902	5293	154	29.1	19	123	64	12.0	...	...	...
1903	5293	160	30.2	18	112	70	13.2	1	71	13.4
Averages for years 1894-1903.	4971	152.3	30.7	21.5	141.7	75	15.2	...	...	...
1904	5400	151	27	19	125.8	74	13.7	4	78	14.4

* Rates calculated per 1000 estimated population.
 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 5280.
 Total population at all ages, at census of 1901, 5293.
 Number of inhabited houses, " 1161.
 Average number of persons per house , 4.4.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65. 65 and upwards
Small-pox	2	...	...	1	...	1
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous croup	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	8	...	...	...	...	5
Scarlet fever	9	...	1	8	...	...
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	20	...	...	5	5	10
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	5	...	2	3	...	...
Totals	44	...	3	17	5	16
						3

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year, 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	3	...	3	...	...	...	..
Scarlet fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Other continued ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Plague .. ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	7	6	1	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	..	...	...	...	..	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	7	...	...	...	1	6	...
Other tubercular diseases	2	1	...	1	...	..	...
Cancer, malignant disease	2	...	..	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	4	...	2	...	..	...	2
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy	1	1	...	...	..	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver	3	...	...	...	...	3	...
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	..	...
Premature birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases... ..	7	...	...	3	1	1	2
Accidents ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	29	7	1	1	1	4	15
All causes	74	21	7	6	4	16	20

Factories, Work-shops, Laundries, Work-places, and Home-work.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	15	1	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	46	4	
Home-workers' Premises	34	0	
Total	95	5	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	4	4		
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1	1		
Total	5	5	Nil.	Nil.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Acts (s. 5).	1
Notified by H.M. Inspector ...	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors.	1
Home-work :—Lists of Out-workers (s. 107)—	
Lists received	24
Addresses of out-workers ... { forwarded to other Authorities ...	6
{ received from other Authorities ...	4
Work-shops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of 1904.	
Important classes of work-shop, such as work-shop bake-houses, may be enumerated here. { Hosiery	19
{ Shoe	2
{ Bake-houses	6
{ Tailors' shops	5
{ Dress-makers	12
{ Others	2
Total number of work-shops on Register	46

